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County Borough of West Bromwich



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of
West Bromwich

FOR

1953

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HOME HELP ORGANISER ... MRS. J. M. DAY

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of West Bromwich for 1953.

This report follows the same plan as last year. It begins with numerical details as to births, deaths and the incidence of certain diseases, and these are followed by miscellaneous items relating to the public health such as outbreaks of infectious disease, control of tuberculosis, and industrial health. The main part of the report is taken up with an account of the local health authority's activities under the National Health Service Act, and it concludes with a note of the Welfare Services, which duties, though administered by the Welfare Services Committee are carried out largely by the staff of the Health Department.

Births and Deaths

During the year under review 1,494 children were born in West Bromwich. This represents 17.0 births per thousand population and is the same figure as the average for the great towns in England and Wales. During the last five years there has been a gradual decline in the birth rate and in 1953 there were 2.5 fewer births per thousand population than in 1949. Of the infants born in West Bromwich in 1953, 546 made their début in their own homes. It is still a highly debatable point whether it is better to be born in hospital or at home. When all the factors have been balanced, such as housing conditions, availability of medical aid, the problem of running the home while the mother is incapacitated, the more intimate contact of mother and infant in the home, along with a multitude of other considerations, one is left in some doubt as to which is preferable. It can be argued that as childbirth is a natural process, it is right that it should take place in the normal surroundings of the home. But obstetrics is liable to merge into surgery and the communal bedroom is not the best form of operating theatre. It is not suggested that a labour ward should be incorporated into the design of future dwelling houses; though if this were combined with a sick-bay it might be a useful measure against the worsening of the hospital staff position, as a result of which it may well be that all manner of patients will have to be treated at home. One fact is abundantly clear and that is, whatever may be the ideal place for the normal confinement, there are simply not enough obstetric beds available for all these cases to be dealt with in hospital. It follows that a comprehensive domiciliary midwifery service will have to be maintained for some time to come, and possibly even augmented.

As to other vital statistics, the death rate for 1953 was 10.5 per thousand population. This was a slightly higher figure than in 1952, representing a difference of 71 deaths between the two years, and principally accounted for by a higher incidence of deaths from bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, which was doubtless secondary to the unhealthy climatic conditions in the winter of 1952-53. The death rate was however lower than the average for the last five years, namely 10.9 per thousand.

The infant mortality rate was 30 per thousand live births, the same figure as for 1950 and 1951, and the lowest so far recorded in the borough. The average for the last five years was 35 per thousand.

Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, and other Infectious Diseases

Mention is made in this report of what is now, thanks to 12 years' intensive immunisation, a relatively uncommon disease: diphtheria. A small outbreak is described in which a child, who had not been immunised, lost its life. One of the difficulties in the way of securing 100% immunity against this disease by means of artificial immunisation has been latterly to persuade the public that a real danger exists. To the average parent, diphtheria is a rarity, the kind of misfortune that seems unlikely to befall one's own family. But if the level of immunity so far achieved should fall, there is a serious risk of outbreaks like the one described becoming more frequent and developing on a larger scale. Health education is our main weapon against apathy towards these hazards and unremitting efforts must continue in this direction until mothers come to accept the need for immunisation, in the same way that they accept the need for vitamins to protect the healthy growth of their children.

West Bromwich was fortunate in escaping very lightly from poliomyelitis in 1953, only three cases being notified, and in these no residual paralysis resulted. In passing, one would like to make a plea for the general use of a less blood-chilling term than *paralytic* poliomyelitis. A happier phrase has been observed in medical journals from overseas for cases in which there is persistent paralysis, namely "residual" poliomyelitis. This expression has the advantage also of being more apt, since it is the end-result that one is concerned about: there may be paralysis in the early stages which subsequently clears up. The emotionally charged word has a notorious distorting power. One has no wish to belittle the gravity of this disease, but if the word *paralytic* were avoided, particularly in public announcements, outbreaks might be tackled in a calmer atmosphere and the infection viewed in a truer perspective.

Of the other infectious diseases occurring in the year under review, whooping cough was the most prevalent. It is to be hoped that the extension of the Council's immunisation scheme to cover whooping cough, which is shortly to come into operation, will show its effect on the future incidence of this serious infection of childhood.

Health and Holidays

Reviewing the weekly morbidity returns of the Ministry of National Insurance, set out in the body of this report, one observes that they follow the same trend as in the previous year. One notable feature is the decline in the number of sickness claims around the period of the national holidays, which suggests that these institutions have a boosting effect on the morale of the population and could with advantage be added to. A pre-Lent holiday in February and a Michaelmas holiday at the end of September might well reduce the amount of winter and autumn sickness with beneficial consequences to the national economy.

Housing

Reference will be found in the report to the progress made in the building of houses. The Housing Committee pursues its herculean efforts to put new dwellings up though it has not yet succeeded in bringing the end of the waiting list for accommodation within sight. In spite of the great pressure for rehousing, the Committee has had the forbearance and wisdom, if I may put it so, to perceive the importance of giving priority to certain cases on health grounds: the tuberculous, because of the risks to the community, and other cases where the living conditions are seriously prejudicial to the health of the individual concerned.

The Work of Health Visitors

During the year the Health Visitors paid 23,000 visits to homes for a variety of purposes. This figure, formidable as it may appear, is lower than that for 1952, principally in respect of visits to children under five years. The number of "Miscellaneous" visits is, however, higher. This reflects a change in the orientation of the health visitor's work in recent years. Now that every child has its own doctor, anxieties about health in the homes of young children tend to be fewer. Knowing that particular infants are under medical care, the health visitor needs to make less frequent visits to the home. There is still much that she is able to do, and must do, in the field of child care. She can, moreover, be of great help to the general practitioner in seeing that his advice is carried out, particularly in respect of feeding difficulties and general infant management. At the time this report is being written efforts are being made from both sides to secure greater liaison between general practitioners and health visitors. Meanwhile, at the other end of life's span, health visitors have increasing responsibilities with regard to the aged and the chronic sick. Lengthier visits are required for persons in these categories and, as often as not, time-consuming reports are called for. Much of the health visitor's time is also taken up with investigation of housing conditions in which a claim for priority is being made on health grounds; here again detailed reports have to be furnished. Further, any special investigation that has to be made usually falls to the lot of the health visitor. In this way a change of emphasis has come about in the health visitor's work. Her concern is not now so much with

the specialised technique of infant management as with the broader aspects of social medicine.

Day Nursery

On a later page are described the circumstances leading to the closure of the Day Nursery, which finally terminated its existence in January, 1954. Its passing marks the end of an era and, perhaps as in the case of some of the wartime expedients that have passed with it, like food subsidies and rationing, this has come about not because it altogether outlived its usefulness but because it ceased to be an economic proposition. Many children have cause to be grateful to the Day Nursery for giving them a good start in life. It is interesting to speculate whether their early introduction to the give and take of communal life will make the ex-Day Nursery children happier and better citizens. There is scope for research here, in a decade or two.

Occupation Centre

During 1953 the adaptations to The Crest were completed and the two occupation centre classes for retarded children that had been carried on respectively at Friar Park Community Centre and Trinity Road Social Centre met for the first time in their new home at a Christmas Party. The all-day centre in these new premises began its regular sessions in the New Year.

Care of the Aged

Much of the work of the Welfare Services Committee is concerned with the provision of accommodation for the aged. The need for this arises from various causes. Usually it is due to lack of available care, as when an aged, infirm person is living alone; less commonly it comes about through a combination of circumstances such as cramped living conditions and a clash of personalities in the home. It is difficult to estimate the number of such persons at any moment. In the space of a few weeks a situation which may have been tolerable can suddenly grow worse, so that the need for care becomes urgent. Places in the Council's own small homes, once filled, tend to remain so. Up to a point, urgent cases can be dealt with by admission to the Poplars at Wolverhampton. There remains, however, an unassessed potential of aged persons whose situation, while not objectionable, may become so at any time. In the face of a growing waiting list of persons in this condition, when the house next door to the Hawthorns Home for Elderly Ladies, and structurally contiguous with it, became vacant in the autumn of 1953, the Council resolved to buy the property. The Welfare Services Committee had been in some doubt as to the desirability of converting an old building of this sort, with its limited facilities, into an Old People's Home, but it was evident that the immediate need for accommodation within the borough itself was such that it would be inexpedient to await the erection of an ad hoc home. At the time of writing the adaptations have been completed, bringing the accommodation in the Council's Homes for Old People in West Bromwich up to 57 places.

Staff

The following staff changes took place during the year :

Appointments

Miss D. I. Carter (Shorthand Typist) 23rd February, 1953.
Miss I. Callum (Municipal Midwife) 16th April, 1953.
Mrs. B. Peregrine (Municipal Midwife) 22nd April, 1953.
Mrs. L. Slater (Health Visitor) 18th May, 1953.
Miss M. Wherton (Clerk) 1st June, 1953.
Mrs. G. S. Pointon (Municipal Midwife) 1st June, 1953.
Miss M. E. Cremin (Assistant Occupation Centre Supervisor)
8th June, 1953.
Mrs. D. J. Nuttall (Clerk) 5th August, 1953.
Miss W. J. Green (Student Health Visitor) 1st September, 1953.
Miss I. Siddall (Mental Health Officer) 28th September, 1953.
Dr. A. Blench (Assistant Medical Officer) 2nd November, 1953.

Resignations

Miss A. E. Cox (Shorthand Typist) 28th February, 1953.
Dr. W. J. Morrissey (Senior Assistant Medical Officer) 19th
April, 1953.
Miss M. E. Jukes (Assistant Matron) 20th April, 1953.
Miss E. Herring (Nursery Nurse) 20th April, 1953.
Miss I. John (Health Visitor) 18th June, 1953.
Mrs. J. Jaggs (Typist/Clerk) 31st July, 1953.
Miss M. Oliver (Mental Health Officer) 31st July, 1953.
Mr. F. Byrne (Welfare Officer) 30th November, 1953.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairmen and Members of the Committees concerned. My thanks for the ready help and co-operation received during the year are due also to other Corporation Departments and to outside, but closely associated, bodies such as the West Bromwich and District Hospitals Management Committee and its officers, and the general practitioners of the town. Last but not least I must thank the Health Department staff for their loyal work to which this report bears testimony.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. FLEMING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
2, Lodge Road,
West Bromwich.

GENERAL STATISTICS

POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid-1953)	87,960
AREA (Acres)	7,172
NO. OF INHABITED HOUSES (according to rate books— 31st December, 1953)	24,587
RATEABLE VALUE (31st December, 1953)	£464,311
PRODUCT OF 1d. RATE (1953-1954)	£1,820
GENERAL RATE (1953-1954)	23/6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	755	695	1,450
Illegitimate ...	21	23	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	776	718	1,494
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 17·0.

The number of live births in 1953 was 1,494 as compared with 1,504 in 1952, giving a birth rate for 1953 of 17·0 per 1,000 population, compared with 15·5 for England and Wales and 17·0 for the great towns.

Still-Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	22	22	44
Illegitimate ...	2	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24	23	47
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 population = 0·53.

Rate per 1,000 live and still-births = 30·5.

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
505	421	926

Death Rate = 10·5.

There were 926 deaths in 1953 as compared with 855 in 1952, whilst the corresponding figures for England and Wales and the great towns were 11·4 and 12·2 respectively.

The proportion of deaths which occurred in persons of 65 years of age and over was 59·4% compared with 57·9% in 1952.

Maternal Deaths

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth 1

Rate per 1,000 live and still-births = 0·65.

This death occurred as a result of a rapidly developing toxaemia of pregnancy complicated by a morbid condition of the heart which was not previously apparent, and could not be regarded as avoidable in the present state of medical knowledge.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

All Infants	45	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	30·1
Legitimate	44	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	30·3
Illegitimate	1	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	22·7

Population

The population figure as supplied by the Registrar General showed an increase of 320 as compared with the previous year, bringing the total to 87,960.

DEATHS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

Principal Causes of Deaths

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Cancer ...	132	173	138	145	127	151	154	165	128	149
Heart Diseases ...	138	143	161	208	184	198	256	275	199	211
Pneumonia ...	56	39	40	66	41	49	46	43	33	32
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases ...	88	95	90	115	81	113	69	96	82	107
Vascular lesions ...	77	105	99	98	73	112	113	103	113	121
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	54	54	57	59	63	66	50	39	27	27
Non-Pulmonary	11	8	9	10	10	10	3	6	4	6

Deaths from Violent Causes

There were 38 deaths from violent causes, 6 from suicide, 15 as a result of road accidents and 17 others.

Infant Mortality

The bottom figure in the last column of the table on next page means that out of every 1,000 infants born in West Bromwich, 30 failed to survive a twelvemonth. This is the same figure for 1950, 1951 and 1953, and is the lowest so far recorded in the borough.

Prematurity, congenital malformations and pneumonia still account for the greatest number of infant deaths, and nearly half the deaths—those due to the first two causes—occurred in the first 4 days after birth.

INFANT DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS FOR 10 YEARS 1944 — 1953

Year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total	Infant Death Rate
1944	60	20	29	4	4	117	67
1945	34	13	20	8	5	80	52
1946	38	15	17	10	6	86	50
1947	37	17	20	16	6	96	55
1948	38	18	23	8	2	89	53
1949	31	19	24	6	3	83	49
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
1951	23	7	9	3	3	45	30
1952	31	9	7	5	2	54	36
1953	22	9	7	6	1	45	30

INFANT DEATHS, 1953 — CAUSES OF DEATH

	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	11	—	—	—	—	11
Congenital Malformations	7	1	3	—	—	11
Pneumonia	1	4	3	1	—	9
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	1	—	1
Accidents	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other defined diseases ...	2	4	1	3	1	11
Totals	22	9	7	6	1	45

NEO-NATAL DEATHS IN 1953

WHEN DEATH OCCURRED

										Deaths
1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	under 1 month
7	5	6	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	22

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

The incidence of notifiable diseases is shown in the following table:—

Disease	Number of cases notified	
	1952	1953
Whooping cough	374	455
Measles	644	373
Scarlet Fever	78	77
Dysentery	3	10
Pneumonia	10	9
Diphtheria	2	7
Meningococcal infection ...	4	5
Food poisoning	2	4
Poliomyelitis	3	3*
Erysipelas	2	2
Puerperal pyrexia	42	11
* (non-paralytic)		

VENEREAL DISEASES

Details of the returns of cases of venereal disease from West Bromwich treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below:—

	Birmingham	Dudley	Total
Syphilis	4	4	8
Gonorrhoea	12	2	14
Conditions other than venereal	57	11	68
Total cases ...	73	17	90

The figures are substantially the same as in 1952, and a comparison of the figures for the last 5 years shows minor variations but no significant trends.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Syphilis	11	5	11	13	8
Gonorrhoea	20	11	18	34	14
Others	75	81	61	72	68
Total	106	97	90	119	90

DIPHTHERIA

Seven cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. All the cases affected were school children and five of them were pupils attending the Joseph Edward Cox school in Friar Park. This small outbreak occurred during May and June. Concern had been felt for some time regarding the low immunisation rate that existed in this area of the borough despite the untiring efforts of health visitors and school medical officers to encourage parents to have their children protected. None of the children actually infected had been immunised against diphtheria. The first case notified in the series died of a grave form of diphtheria within a few hours of admission to hospital. Four other less severe cases subsequently developed in the same area and three temporary carriers of the diphtheria bacillus were also brought to light. Now that a real danger threatened, the parents of children attending the school involved showed a sensible and realistic attitude, and when immunisation was offered to every pupil in the school immediately after the outbreak less than 1% refused.

Two other cases of diphtheria, unconnected with the Friar Park outbreak, subsequently arose, one on the Harvills Hawthorn estate, where two temporary carriers were discovered, and the other at Great Bridge. Both were very mild, one being modified in severity through the child concerned having been immunised in infancy.

<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date removed to Hospital</i>	<i>Immunised</i>
1	F	5 yrs.	6.5.53	No.
2	F	5 yrs.	11.5.53	No.
3	M	7 yrs.	16.5.53	No.
4	M	9 yrs.	18.5.53	No.
5	M	7 yrs.	10.6.53	No.
6	F	4 yrs.	14.6.53	No.
7	M	9 yrs.	26.9.53	Yes

POLIOMYELITIS

Three cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were notified during the year. The first occurred at the end of August in a boy aged $5\frac{1}{2}$. Six days later his cousin, aged $3\frac{1}{2}$, with whom he had been in contact, was removed to hospital with similar symptoms. The third case was a boy aged 14, who was taken ill on the 9th October. He happened to attend the same school as the sister of the second case, but no intermediate cases, linking the two, came to light. All three recovered without residual defect.

<i>Case Number</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date removed to Hospital</i>
1	M	$5\frac{1}{2}$ yrs.	29. 8.53
2	M	$3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs.	3. 9.53
3	M	14 yrs.	11.10.53

TUBERCULOSIS

Report by Dr. C. W. D. Cole, Chest Physician, on the work of the Chest Clinic

The year 1953 has been one of consolidation and in general has been most satisfactory. Once again the total number of attendances at the chest clinic has risen and in fact totalled 10,893. This is an increase of 1,400 on the previous year. The number of new notifications of tuberculosis, namely 155, gives a slightly higher total than last year. Sixteen of these cases were non-pulmonary. These figures follow the national trend. There were 33 deaths—one more than last year, six of the deaths being non-pulmonary.

Table 1 shows the amount of work carried out in the chest clinic. The number of home visits carried out by the tuberculosis visitors totalled 3,105. This is the highest figure since before the war and represents a return to what one hopes will be a generally high standard of visiting of tuberculous patients in their homes. Of the 27 deaths shown in the pulmonary column, two were notified posthumously, and a further three cases died within six weeks of notification. Of the non-pulmonary deaths, there were two from tuberculous meningitis. The number on the notification register will be noted to have risen again whilst the number on the chest clinic register has now reached the figure of 2,046.

It is now six years since the chest clinic became the responsibility of the Hospital Management Committee. A good deal has happened in that time to the advantage of the tuberculous patient. The chest clinic has removed to more commodious premises at Heath Lane Hospital and is more accessible for patients in the various parts of the area, being well served by public transport. A modern X-ray set has been provided for the clinic and hospital; new wards have been opened; and many alterations made at Heath Lane Hospital. Medical research has produced a wide range of anti-biotics which are in plentiful supply; and the number of beds available for tuberculous patients in West Bromwich has been almost doubled. It may well be that the curative side of the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is approaching its zenith; though perhaps the preventative and after-care side has not altogether kept pace with these recent developments.

In West Bromwich a vigorous policy of vaccinating suitable child contacts with B.C.G. was, however, carried out during 1953; and it is now proposed to offer B.C.G. vaccination to the thirteen year old school children whose parents desire them to have it, and who are tuberculin test negative. This represents a great advance on the past, but it is still probably insufficient to cause much difference in the number of notifications in this area. Case contacts, where willing, are followed up and X-rayed, and the health visitors make every effort to become the friends and advisors of the patient and his family. But it is lamentable to see the occasional patient refuse treatment,

and then infect other members of the family. Possibly in the future when the measure of control is greater, it may be feasible to apply compulsion in cases such as these.

A large part is played in the spread of tuberculosis by unsatisfactory housing conditions and by lack of personal hygiene. The people of West Bromwich are fortunate in that their Housing Committee is well aware of the problems created by the occurrence of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis in the family, and special consideration is given to the housing of these families. The system of points allocation tends to weigh most heavily against the young recently wedded couple, and it is in this very group that the majority of tuberculous applicants for Corporation houses tend to fall. Generally speaking, however, the liaison between the chest clinic and the Housing Committee is excellent.

The After Care Committee has once again played the role of Fairy Godmother to very many of our patients in conjunction with the Ministry of National Insurance and the Local Assistance Board. These three bodies between them make life tolerable for the patients and their families, and by preventing chronic financial distress help greatly in rehabilitating the tuberculous.

I should like to thank the Medical Officer of Health and his staff for their help and advice during the year, and coupled with them, Mr. Keith Jones and Mr. Roberts, of the After Care Committee and the National Assistance Board respectively.

In conclusion, I feel that the future for anti-tuberculosis work may be viewed with optimism though not with complacency. Probably the Housing Committee can do nearly as much now as the sanatorium, and I sincerely hope that the happy state of affairs in West Bromwich, with cordial relations between the Health Department, the Housing Department and the Chest Clinic, will continue.

Rate of Incidence of Tuberculosis (Primary Notifications)

Year	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1941	118	18	136	1.3	0.15	1.45
1942	139	14	153	1.77	0.18	1.95
1943	156	18	174	1.99	0.32	2.22
1944	160	11	171	2.04	0.14	2.18
1945	154	13	167	1.91	0.16	2.07
1946	150	11	161	1.81	0.13	1.94
1947	111	9	120	1.32	0.11	1.43
1948	149	21	170	1.73	0.24	1.97
1949	190	13	203	2.19	0.15	2.34
1950	122	16	138	1.40	0.18	1.53
1951	144	6	150	1.65	0.07	1.72
1952	124	18	142	1.37	0.20	1.57
1953	118	16	134	1.31	0.11	1.42

Comparative Table of Deaths and Death Rate

Year	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1941	75	7	82	0.95	0.09	1.04
1942	65	11	76	0.81	0.14	0.95
1943	64	7	71	0.80	0.09	0.89
1944	54	11	65	0.69	0.14	0.83
1945	54	8	62	0.68	0.10	0.78
1946	57	9	66	0.69	0.11	0.80
1947	59	10	69	0.70	0.12	0.82
1948	63	10	73	0.73	0.12	0.85
1949	66	10	76	0.76	0.12	0.88
1950	50	3	53	0.52	0.03	0.55
1951	39	4	43	0.44	0.04	0.48
1952	29	3	32	0.32	0.03	0.35
1953	27	6	33	0.30	0.06	0.36

Work of the Chest Clinic

The number of cases on the Chest Clinic and Notification Registers during the past ten years are given in the following table :—

Year	New Cases	No. on Notif'n Register	No. on C. Clinic Register	No. of Exams.	No. of Consul-tations	Total	Home visits by T.B. Visitors
1941	114	444	306	783	928	1,711	862
1942	153	510	376	1,039	1,084	2,123	932
1943	174	517	461	1,233	1,710	2,943	862
1944	171	597	530	1,271	2,312	3,583	1,017
1945	167	655	697	1,590	2,433	4,023	1,657
1946	161	705	856	1,785	2,842	4,627	2,008
1947	120	716	838	1,669	2,270	3,939	2,053
1948	171	618	970	1,847	1,901	3,748	2,647
1949	203	860	1,234	3,232	2,245	5,568	2,118
1950	138	902	1,497	3,537	2,140	5,677	311
1951	150	841	1,661	5,262	2,084	7,346	980
1952	142	916	1,792	5,756	3,742	9,498	2,833
1953	134	1,066	2,046	6,174	4,719	10,893	3,015

MORBIDITY RETURNS OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INSURANCE

The Regional Office of the Ministry of National Insurance furnishes weekly returns of new claims for Sickness Benefit made to each of the local offices in the region. Although the area covered by the returns does not coincide with that of the Borough itself, they provide a fair general impression of the relative amount of unspecified sickness occurring in the area at different seasons of the year.

Week ending	Number of new claims received		Monthly Totals 1953 1952	
6. 1.53	821	}	1st month	
13. 1.53	735		3024	2672
20. 1.53	732			
27. 1.53	736			
3. 2.53	798	}	2nd month	
10. 2.53	975		4350	2628
17. 2.53	1,311			
24. 2.53	1,266			
3. 3.53	843	}	3rd month	
10. 3.53	695		2743	2422
17. 3.53	633			
24. 3.53	572			
31. 3.53	547	}	4th month	
7. 4.53	449		2069	1875
14. 4.53	510			
21. 4.53	563			
28. 4.53	534	}	5th month	
5. 5.53	479		1945	1950
12. 5.53	494			
19. 5.53	438			
26. 5.53	383	}	6th month	
2. 6.53	307		1528	1565
9. 6.53	373			
16. 6.53	465			
23. 6.53	430	}	7th month	
30. 6.53	443		1638	1661
7. 7.53	367			
14. 7.53	398			
21. 7.53	364	}	8th month	
28. 7.53	328		1110	1112
4. 8.53	154			
11. 8.53	264			
25. 8.53	410	}	9th month	
1. 9.53	370		1643	1579
8. 9.53	450			
15. 9.53	413			
22. 9.53	293	}	10th month	
29. 9.53	326		1249	1941
6.10.53	327			
13.10.53	303			

Week ending	Number of new claims received	Monthly Totals	
		1953	1952
20.10.53	355	} 11th month 1343 2133	
27.10.53	330		
3.11.53	357		
10.11.53	301		
17.11.53	314	} 12th month 1211 2038	
24.11.53	297		
1.12.53	324		
8.12.53	276		
15.12.53	229	} 13th month 1173 1945	
22.12.53	234		
29.12.53	179 Christmas		
5. 1.54	531		

It will be observed that the sickness rates were higher in the first four months of the year than in the corresponding period in 1952, though at the end of the year the situation is reversed. From the health point of view the winter of 1952 to 1953 was a bad one and there were increased sickness claims from October until April. This showed its effect in the higher death rate for 1953. As in the previous year the incidence of sickness was highest in February and lowest in August.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

Joint Committee

The formation of a Joint Committee on Industrial Health was mentioned in the Annual Report for 1952. This Committee consisted of representatives of the following bodies :—

The Council (represented by three members of the Health Committee).

The West Bromwich Trades Council.

The West Bromwich & District Manufacturers' Association.

The Local Medical Committee.

The West Bromwich Executive Council.

The first meeting was held in January, 1953. The existing services were considered, and it was suggested that they might, with advantage, be augmented by a service jointly conducted by the local authority's Health Department and the general practitioners of the area. It was agreed that a small deputation of the Joint Committee should meet representatives of the Manufacturers' Association and put these views before them. This meeting duly took place in June, 1953. The general principles of the scheme were outlined by the deputation and the need for a survey of local industries from the health point of view was stressed as a preliminary step before a concrete plan could be put forward. The representatives of the

Manufacturers' Association, however, expressed the view that the existing health services were adequate and they did not consider that a case had been made out for an additional health service to be set up in connection with local industries.

Pneumoconiosis

In April, 1953, the Health Committee placed accommodation at the disposal of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers for carrying out a radiographic survey of foundry workers, under the direction of Dr. A. Meiklejohn of Glasgow University, a former member of the Pneumoconiosis Medical Panel. This survey covered four foundries in the area, and 349 foundry workers had their chests x-rayed. When the films had been examined, 100 cases were selected in which it was considered that there were grounds for submitting claims to the Ministry of National Insurance for disablement benefit in respect of pneumoconiosis. 54 persons were, in fact, eventually recognised by the Ministry as eligible for benefit. This survey covered only a sample of the foundries in West Bromwich but the results are sufficient to indicate that this is a serious problem in industrial health. A local health authority has no jurisdiction over the working conditions in factories in its area apart from the limited field allowed by the Factories Act, but since iron moulding is one of the principal occupations in the Borough, the Health Committee was naturally exercised by this threat to the health of a significant section of the population. One of the difficulties connected with industrial dust disease is accurate diagnosis, and for this purpose miniature mass radiography has been found to be inadequate. Appreciating that the first requirement is to discover the extent of the problem, the Committee endorsed a recommendation to the Regional Hospital Board that facilities for investigation of this problem by a Mobile X-ray Unit, using plates of suitable size, should be made available in this area.

HOUSING

The building of new Corporation houses in West Bromwich continued in 1953 at an even greater pace than in the previous year.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following details as to new premises occupied in 1953 :—

1. Number of new houses occupied in West Bromwich
from 1st January to 31st December 488

2. Types of houses, flats and shops included in (1) above :

FLATS			WATES FLATS		GREGORY FLATS
Bedrooms			Bedrooms		2 Bedrooms
1	2	3	2	3	
28	12	48	14	66	12

HOUSES			B.S.C. HOUSES		CORNISH HOUSES
Bedrooms			Bedrooms		3 Bedrooms
2	3	4	2	3	
—	242	—	16	2	30
SHOPS			MAISONETTES		
9			9		

PROBLEM FAMILIES

The problem of those families that exist on the lowest social level, who mismanage their finances and are frequently in danger of eviction for non-payment of rent, in which mothercraft is less than rudimentary and child neglect is rife, has been raised at intervals in these annual reports. During 1953 various interested Committees of the Council gave earnest consideration to the question of appointing a specially trained social worker whose duties would be devoted entirely to the rehabilitation of such families. Finally, after a series of meetings which had been spread out over several months, the project was turned down. The problem, however, remains and is as acute as ever. The difficulty in tackling it is that although the Council has a wide range of social workers at its command, none of them is in a position to grapple with the matter in its entirety, mainly because of inability to spend the large amount of time on an individual case that such families need. The cause of the family's plight has to be completely analysed; if any factor is remediable it must be put right; there may be other social agencies who can help and who must be brought in, and the housewife must be given practical help and guidance in cleaning up the home, in budgeting, and in providing adequate bedding, clothes and meals for her family. It is not enough to tell her what to do: she must be shown how to do it, and if need be someone must work alongside her by way of encouragement and of lightening her task. A costly matter, it may be argued, in manpower, time and money. Unfortunately the usual alternative, which is to take children into care, is costlier.

Towards the end of the year under review the arrangements for the pooling of information and co-ordinating action with regard to children neglected in their homes were enlarged in scope and regular monthly meetings of officers began, under the chairmanship of the Medical Officer of Health as Co-ordinating Officer, at which the following were represented:

The Area Officer, National Assistance Board.
 Chief Nursing Officer.
 Children's Officer.
 Director of Education.
 Housing Manager.
 N.S.P.C.C.
 Probation Officer.
 Town Clerk.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The undermentioned medical examinations were carried out during the year by the medical staff :—

Superannuation Medical Examinations

Number of examinations ...	...	...	87
Accepted ...	...	...	83
Deferred for re-examination ...	...	...	2
Accepted after re-examination ...	...	...	2

Medical examinations for admission to the Corporation's Sickness Scheme

Number of examinations ...	...	...	246
Accepted ...	...	...	227
Deferred for re-examination ...	...	...	10
Rejected ...	...	...	2
Accepted after re-examination ...	...	...	5
Rejected after re-examination ...	...	...	2

Ministry of Education Medical Examinations 20

Medical examination for pension ... 1

Special medicals ... 4

NURSING HOMES

Two of the three registered nursing homes in West Bromwich were taking patients throughout 1953. The third home changed hands in the early part of the year following the death of the proprietor, and was re-registered under new ownership in April and continued to operate for the rest of the year. One of the three nursing homes is equipped for surgery, and the other two take only medical cases, mainly chronic sick. These homes were visited at regular intervals by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Nursing Officer. The conditions of registration were satisfactorily maintained and the proprietors invariably showed readiness to co-operate.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS

1. Administration

West Bromwich is a fairly compact County Borough and the local health authority's services are administered centrally. The medical staff of the health department consists of the Medical Officer of Health and three assistants, two full-time and one part-time. The internal administration is carried on by a Chief Clerk,

a Senior Clerk and 7 others. The authority's nursing services are supervised by a Chief Nursing Officer who has under her control 9 health visitors, 10 midwives, 3 full-time and 6 part-time district nurses. The Mental Health Service consists of a Mental Health Officer, Occupation Centre Supervisor, part-time Psychiatric Social Worker, and two Duly Authorised Officers who hold joint appointments with the neighbouring County Borough of Smethwick. The 32 Home Helps are controlled by the Home Help Organiser who has a clerical assistant.

2. Co-ordination and co-operation with other parts of the National Health Service

The area of the County Borough coincides with that of the Executive Council for the general practitioner services and the hospitals serving the town are controlled by one Management Committee. Members of the County Borough Council serve on both the Executive Council and the local Hospital Group Management Committee. The Medical Officer of Health is also a member of the Hospital Management Committee as well as of the local Medical Committee, and there is close liaison between the three bodies at officer level.

3. Voluntary Organisations

A large part of the care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis is carried out under the auspices of the West Bromwich Voluntary Care Committee. The Council and its officers are represented on this committee and the allocation of the funds or necessities provided by the Voluntary Care Committee is made by the Chest Physician.

The care of unmarried mothers and their children is dealt with in conjunction with the Lichfield Diocesan Moral Welfare Association, whose worker arranges for the admission of mothers to Mother and Baby Homes, gives advice on the question of paternity orders, and generally attends to the welfare of the unmarried mother and her child.

4. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and children under School age

(i) Expectant and Nursing Mothers

Ante-natal clinics are held at six of the local authority's welfare centres and also at Hallam Hospital which has a maternity department. Two of the local authority's clinics are attended by the obstetrician in charge of the hospital services, the others by resident medical officers from Hallam Hospital. Cases of abnormality may be referred to the regular ante-natal clinics at the hospital or be seen there by appointment.

The local health authority's staff do not attend at the hospital ante-natal clinics, but at those held in welfare centres; a health visitor and one or two midwives are customarily present.

Blood investigations for W.R., Rhesus, etc., are initiated at each of the ante-natal clinics, specimens being taken at the patient's first visit and sent to the laboratory at Hallam Hospital for examination.

Unmarried mothers are dealt with at ordinary ante-natal sessions, though generally they attend the hospital clinic since owing to primiparity or unsatisfactory home conditions a domiciliary confinement is considered undesirable. Either the health visitor or sister in charge of the clinic puts the mother in touch with the moral welfare visitor mentioned in Section 3.

Maternity outfits are held centrally at the health department and are supplied to expectant mothers at the 7th month on presentation of a chit supplied by the midwife booked to attend them.

Mothercraft training is carried out regularly at ante-natal clinics and infant welfare centres. Health talks are given by health visitors to small groups and demonstrations are arranged in connection with the making of infants' clothes and the preparation of feeds. Health topics are illustrated by blackboard and poster displays, changed weekly.

Ante and Post-natal Clinics

Total number of sessions held during 1953					
(combined)	...	...	...	...	278
Attendances (ante-natal)—					
First	...	...	...	...	377
Subsequent	...	...	...	...	2,581
Attendances (post-natal)—					
First	...	...	...	...	33
Subsequent	...	...	...	...	51

Illegitimate Children

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work for the following report on the work of the Social Welfare Worker, Miss K. M. Lavender, in West Bromwich during 1953.

Eighteen cases in which illegitimate births occurred were dealt with and these are reported below.

Three mothers remained in their own homes for confinement; ten went to hospital; four were accommodated in Diocesan Homes and one was accommodated in the Birmingham Salvation Army Home.

The babies were placed as follows :—

With mother at home	...	...	12
Adopted	...	...	3
Died	...	...	1
Stillborn	...	...	2

In nearly all cases efforts have been made to trace the putative fathers. In several cases there was insufficient evidence for affiliation, but four private agreements were arranged.

Three cases concerned married women; one of whom was a widow; one was still living with her husband and child accepted by him; and in one case divorce proceedings against the woman are pending.

One girl married the putative father and the child is now being well cared for by both parents.

Two mothers were aged 16, while the ages of the others ranged between 18 and 30 years.

Seven cases in which births occurred prior to 1953 have required help in various ways, and at the end of the year five cases in which births were expected in 1954 were still under care, making a total of 30 cases.

(ii) Child Welfare

The seven infant welfare clinics continued to operate throughout the year, between them holding 40 sessions a month. There were 18,501 attendances by children under 1 year of age, and 5,027 by children over 1 year, which was substantially the same rate of attendances as in the previous year.

At the Stone Cross Infant Welfare Clinic a sewing class was inaugurated in January, 1953, and held once weekly on a term-ly basis throughout the year. The class teacher is supplied by the Education Department, Evening Institute Section, and the costs are defrayed by a small fee paid by each of the mothers attending. The class numbered 12 at the end of the year, were very enthusiastic, and continue to produce good work.

During the year building operations began on the new infant welfare centre at Friar Park on a site adjacent to the Community Centre where the present clinic is held. When opened this will serve as a combined infant welfare clinic and ante-natal clinic.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

Ultra Violet Light clinics are held on Monday and Thursday afternoon at Stone Cross Clinic and the Central School Clinic. During the year 159 children received artificial sunlight treatment, making 2,811 attendances.

Highfields Day Nursery

Although the average daily attendance at the Day Nursery was 46 in 1952 compared with 43 in the previous year, when the charges were increased in November, 1952, there was a sharp decline in attendance which never really recovered. In February, 1953, "in view of urgent need for economies" consideration was given to the desirability or otherwise of continuing to operate the Day Nursery. Further reduction in staff was made commensurate with the actual attendances. Then, when the most advanced students had taken their examination, Highfields ceased to be a training nursery. Finally, in November it was decided that the nursery should close at the end of January, 1954.

At the end of 1953, the number of priority cases was only six. Some concern was felt as to the welfare of these cases and any that should arise after the nursery was closed, and a scheme was devised for a Daily Foster Service. In this scheme it was proposed that a panel of mothers should be enrolled who would be prepared, subject to their homes being considered suitable, to provide daily care for children whose own mothers were obliged to go out to work. For this service the foster mothers would receive a fee of 20/- per week, paid by the Corporation, who would recover from the mother according to her means. In the meantime, however, the priority cases made their own arrangements for the care of their children, and the two Daily Foster Mothers who had been enrolled took up employment themselves before their services could be made use of.

	Under 2 years	2—5 years
Total attendances for the year at Highfields Day Nursery	1,652	3,683
Average attendances per day ...	7	15

(iii) Care of Premature Infants

Prematurity is still one of the principal causes of loss of infant life, and if the means were found by which the ill-timed irruption of these unfortunate infants into the world, in a too immature condition to face its rigours, could be prevented, then the infant mortality rate would be reduced by a quarter. Meantime the difficulties must be combated as best they can.

Complete apparatus for dealing with the premature infant in the home is available in the health department, including heated cot linings, blankets, breast pumps and other requisites. Special equipment, is also available at the Ambulance Depot for the conveying of these cases from their homes to hospital. During 1953 the Premature Baby Unit at Hallam Hospital, opened in the previous autumn, was in full operation and dealt with the frailer premature infants admitted from the district, and those born in hospital. It will be observed from the figures shown below that about one-third of the premature live births were handled by municipal midwives, and the majority of them were successfully treated in their own homes.

Total number of premature live births in the area during 1953	96
Total number of premature live births at home	33
Total number of premature still-births in the area	20
Total number of premature still-births at home	4

Of the hospital cases, 8 died during the first 24 hours, and 54 survived at the end of a month, and of those born and nursed entirely at home, 28 survived at the end of a month.

Report of the Senior Dental Officer, D. H. Goose, B.Sc., B.D.S.

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	24	24	27	15
Children under five years	251	250	242	249

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling & Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	X-ray	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	105	1	23	12	3	—	2	—	1	4
Children under five years ...	821	—	245	17	—	18	2	1	—	—

Only 46 sessions were devoted to the inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five. This is rather a misleading figure as we treat both these classes of patients in the same sessions as school children, thus making the exact calculation of time spent on each rather difficult.

As I forecast in my last report, we have now changed the arrangements for dental inspection and treatment of ante-natal patients. They come now to the clinic for their dental inspection and we (Mr. Potter or myself) normally carry out all their treatment. Should they need hospital attention Mr. Bosworth kindly sees them at Hallam Hospital, and I should like to thank him and the medical and nursing staff involved for their assistance.

We have had considerable alterations to one of our surgeries at the central clinic where the anaesthetic treatment is carried out and it is now much more convenient for the patients and staff alike.

For the next year we have ordered an additional anaesthetic machine for Stone Cross Clinic and this will allow anaesthetic sessions to take place there, thus saving patients living in that area, from coming to the Central Clinic as at present.

Although less expectant and nursing mothers were seen than in 1952, more fillings were done, also for children under five, thus showing a welcome improvement in conservative treatment.

I should like to end by thanking Dr. Mills, our anaesthetist, the staff of the public health department and welfare clinics, as well as my own, for their kind assistance during the year.

5. Domiciliary Midwifery

At the end of 1953, 10 full-time midwives were employed in the Council's domiciliary midwifery service. The immediate supervision and the arranging of the work of the domiciliary midwives is carried out by the Chief Nursing Officer. The Medical Supervisor of Midwives is the obstetrician in charge of the hospital obstetric service. Each midwife works in an area demarcated on the map of the Borough, but a certain amount of flexibility is necessary to cover gaps due to illness, off-duty, or absence of a midwife from some other cause.

Two midwives were appointed in 1953 to fill vacancies left at the end of the previous year, and with the growth of the Yew Tree estate it became necessary to appoint a midwife to serve that area; she was housed on the estate itself. Hitherto this outlying portion of the Borough had been served by one of the Walsall midwives, but on the 31st May, 1953, this arrangement came to an end.

The proportion of confinements taking place at home, compared with hospital births, was approximately the same in 1953 as in previous years, namely one-third of the total, 546 cases being attended by municipal midwives in their own homes and 1,182 by hospital midwives in institutions.

The arrangements with the Lichfield Hospital Management Committee for the district training of pupil midwives from the Oakhurst Maternity Home at Sutton Coldfield continued in 1953. Four pupils attended for three months' training, the last two beginning in December. All were successful in their examinations.

One of the municipal midwives was sent on a Refresher Course. Each of the Midwives is obliged to attend one of these courses at intervals, in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board, and on an average they attend once in four years.

Number of midwives on register at 31st December,	
1953	28
Municipal midwives	10
Hallam Hospital	14
Independent	4

Cases attended by municipal midwives :—

as midwives	546
as maternity nurses	46
Number of post-natal visits to homes	11,136
Number of ante-natal clinics attended by midwives	398
Number of ante-natal visits to homes	2,954

Cases attended by midwives in private practice :—

as midwives	...	...	...	...	...	61
as maternity nurses	...	...	...	...	...	40

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year :—

(a) domiciliary cases :

medical practitioner arranged	...	80
others	...	55
	—	135

(b) cases in institutions ... 312

Administration of gas and air analgesia by domiciliary midwives :—

Number of sets of apparatus	...	5
Number of cases in which gas and air was administered	...	328
Number of cases in which pethidine was administered	...	192

6. Health Visiting

The health visiting staff consists of the Chief Nursing Officer and nine health visitors. All these are employed full-time directly by the Corporation but not continuously as health visitors proper, for they give a proportion of their time, approximately 4/11ths, to the school health service.

The area of the County Borough is divided into nine districts, one health visitor being in charge of each district and working under the general supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer. In these districts they carry out the initial visiting of infants and young children up to the age of five. In addition, they visit cases of infectious disease and patients with other illnesses, particularly the aged or infirm or those suffering from chronic diseases.

There is close liaison with the hospitals for the follow-up of discharged cases of children or the elderly. In addition, an arrangement exists with Hallam Hospital whereby cases for whom application is made for admission to the chronic wards are visited by the health visitors in their homes and an assessment made of their urgency for admission.

There is a scheme for training health visitors in Birmingham, and student health visitors are regularly assisted to follow this course. Visits of observation for students undertaking this course are arranged in West Bromwich. A student who is enrolled attends a nine months' course of instruction conducted jointly by the Public Health Department and the University of Birmingham. After taking her certificate the health visitor then commences her duties with the local health authority sponsoring her training and contracts to continue in its service for twelve months. One student health visitor enrolled in the course which began in September, 1953.

Health Visitors' Inspections

First visits to births	...	...	...	...	1,472
Re-visits to children under 12 months	...	...	...	...	6,817
Re-visits to children aged 1—5 years	...	...	...	...	12,933
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	303
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	265
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1,483
B.C.G.	...	...	...	...	264
Total					23,537

As the health visitors also acted as school nurses, the amount of time devoted to health visiting was the equivalent of six whole-time health visitors.

7. Home Nursing

The district nurses are under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer, to whom application is made for their services and who allocates and organises their duties. Three full-time and six part-time nurses are available for this work. It is difficult to assess the number of man-hours necessary to cover all cases adequately. By having some part-time personnel it is possible to extend the hours available during a period of heavy demand for their services, but as they usually have domestic ties the part-time nurses are unable to work longer hours for prolonged periods and additions to the staff are therefore desirable.

There is good co-operation with the general practitioners of the area who appear to understand the scope of the service as well as its limitations.

With the hospitals there is also two-way co-operation. Arrangements are made for the continuation of treatment after a patient's discharge, and in the case of tuberculous patients, for its initiation before the patient is admitted. In chronic cases where circumstances deteriorate to a pitch at which domiciliary treatment is no longer adequate to cover the patient's needs, the hospital will generally accept the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health regarding the urgency of the case for admission.

Night calls are covered by a rota of nurses so that one is available every night. Calls are transmitted by the Ambulance Department through which transport is arranged.

Number of patients dealt with during the year 1953:

Brought forward	...	...	...	...	138
New patients	...	...	...	...	648
Transfers	...	...	...	...	112
Discharges	...	...	...	...	365
Deceased	...	...	...	...	177
No. of patients remaining on books at end of year	...	...	...	...	132
Total number of visits by District Nurses					27,113

Loan Equipment:

The following items were supplied on loan from the Health Department to facilitate the care of patients nursed at home :—

Air rings
 Back rests
 Bed pans
 Bed tables
 Bed cages
 Blankets
 Breast pumps
 Commodes
 Feeding cups
 Foot baths
 Head mirrors
 Hot water bottles
 Invalid chairs
 Pillows
 Rubber sheets
 Sputum mugs
 Urinals
 Urinal bags

8. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The vaccination and immunisation of the child population is secured largely by the personal approach of the health visiting staff. At the second neo-natal visit the parent is urged to have the infant vaccinated, and when it is older immunised against diphtheria. A reminder is sent out to those that have not had this prophylactic treatment at nine months. A birthday card delivered at twelve months to children whose parents have not taken advantage of the arrangements for immunisation against diphtheria serves as a further reminder.

Vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria are offered at all infant welfare centres. Inoculation against pertussis is also available on request.

“ Boosting ” injections of diphtheria prophylactic are given at the child’s last attendance at the infant welfare clinic before commencing school. Subsequently, immunisation is offered during routine school medical examinations in infants’ departments, and a regular immunising session is held weekly at the central school clinic.

Below are given the number of children immunised in 1953 against diphtheria and vaccinated against smallpox. These represent all age groups and those in which treatment was given by doctors in the Public Health department and also by general practitioners.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of children immunised	...	...	1,112
Number of children receiving reinforcing injections	...	...	1,572

It is estimated that the proportion of children under 15 in West Bromwich immunised against diphtheria is now 78.2%.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons vaccinated	...	...	304
Number of persons re-vaccinated	...	...	103

9. AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Corporation’s ambulances, seven in number, are garaged at the West Bromwich Corporation Transport Department, Oak Lane, West Bromwich. The servicing and maintenance of vehicles, and the operation and supervision of the Ambulance Service is carried out by the Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee.

In spite of the close watch on this service to prevent its abuse, the demands made upon it showed a further increase in 1953. The number of patients carried rose by 41% between 1949 and 1953. This increased use of the service is caused mainly by heavier demands from hospital out-patient departments. The facilities provided under the National Health Service Act for transport by ambulance have, without doubt, enabled many patients to be treated at out-patient clinics whose admission to hospital would otherwise have been necessary, thus obviating the cost of their maintenance in hospital. The fact that demands for this service continue to grow instead of stabilizing as one would have expected them to do after a reasonable interval, does cause some concern.

Having regard to the fact that a high proportion of patients carried in the Corporation's ambulances are sitting cases, the Health Committee agreed that during the financial period 1954/1955 an existing ambulance should be converted into a dual purpose vehicle.

Number of patients removed to hospitals :—

(a) within the Borough	...	...	...	1,756
(b) outside the Borough	...	...	...	241

Number of patients removed from hospitals to other addresses :—

(a) within the Borough	...	...	...	677
(b) outside the Borough	...	...	...	191

Number of out-patients taken for treatment at hospitals :—

(a) within the Borough	...	...	...	9,458
(b) outside the Borough	...	...	...	4,090

Number of street and works accidents 1,495

Calls for "Minnitt" gas and air apparatus 379

Transfers from hospital to hospital 197

Patients to and from nursing homes 59

Other journeys 348

Sitting car cases 111

Mileage :

Ambulances	...	...	...	...	...	78,855
Cars	...	...	...	...	...	1,484

10. PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

(i) Tuberculosis

As far as tuberculosis is concerned, the arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the prevention, care and after-care of the disease are operated jointly by the Chest Physician, in charge of the West Bromwich & District Hospital Group Management Committee's Chest Clinic at Heath Lane, and the Medical Officer of Health. The two tuberculosis health visitors, who form part of the health department staff, are based at the chest clinic and their activities are directed by the Chest Physician. During 1953, 111 first visits, and 2,904 re-visits were made to homes of cases of tuberculosis. Contacts of cases were followed up both at home and at places of work, and 287 of them were examined at the chest clinic. Many were kept under observation and 2,348 re-attendances of contacts were made. Tuberculous cases in employment did not present any particular problems as far as the health of their fellow employees was concerned; the difficulty was rather to place patients in employment who were not fully recovered.

Those cases of tuberculosis which were notified only after death were followed up by close liaison between the Chest Clinic, the Health Department and the hospital or medical practitioner concerned.

During August and September, 1953, a short radiographic survey was conducted by the Birmingham Mobile Mass Radiography Unit. The survey was carried out in three parts: first by special visits to the larger works; then by x-raying employees of the smaller firms (where the number did not justify a separate visit) at the Highfields Day Nursery; and finally by x-ray examination of the general public. Of the 5,705 persons examined by this Unit, 10 were found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis. This represents an incidence of 1.7 cases of tuberculosis per 1,000 examined, and compares favourably with the results of recent surveys in other areas, where the average incidence has been 3 per 1,000. It is hoped to arrange for another visit of this Unit, with the kind co-operation of its Director, Dr. L. A. McDowell, in 1955.

	Total strength	Number X-rayed				Recalled for large plates	% recalled	Active tubercle	Other Conditions
		Male	Female	Total	%				
1.	CORPORATION STAFF :								
	600 (Teachers)	288	120	†408	68	10	2.4	—	1
	150	6	8	14	9	—	—	—	—
2.	LARGE INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS :								
	1,100	228	402	630	57	17	2.7	1	2
	1,000	320	276	596	59	31	5	—	4
	900	390	148	538	60	18	3	—	4
	700	100	113	213	31	22	10	2	1
3.	MISCELLANEOUS FIRMS :								
	* 194	166	28	194	100	6	3	—	1
	* 351	204	147	351	100	8	2	—	3
4.	GENERAL PUBLIC								
	* 3,183	1,684	1,499	3,183	100	115	3.6	7	25

† Some attended independently and are included in 4.

* Number of appointments made.

(ii) Illness generally

Convalescent treatment is arranged in accordance with Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, and applications for treatment under this scheme are closely scrutinized before a case is accepted.

In 1953, 101 cases were sent to Convalescent Homes at Hastings, Droitwich, Littlehampton, Llandudno, Southport, Lancing, Exmouth and Clevedon, with the bulk of them continuing to use the excellent Homes at Clevedon and Exmouth.

This compared with 74 cases sent in 1952 and it is obvious that the scheme is becoming better known and more widely used.

11. HOME HELP

This service continued to be in great demand in 1953, and 313 cases were attended. As will be seen from the figures below, a large proportion of the help given was in respect of the chronic sick. Many of these were aged infirm persons who were enabled by this assistance, often coupled with aid from the district nurses, to remain in their own homes without being obliged to occupy a hospital bed or a place in an Old People's Home.

Chronic	...	...	...	...	28,365 $\frac{1}{2}$	hours
Post-natal	...	...	...	...	223 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2,131 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Confinement	...	...	...	...	2,597 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Pre-natal	...	...	...	...	195 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
Triplets	...	...	...	...	36 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Convalescent	...	...	...	...	1,091 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Emergency	...	...	...	...	1,033 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Special	...	...	...	...	984 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Temporary	...	...	...	...	120 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
Total					36,779 $\frac{3}{4}$	„

At the end of 1953, 12 full-time and 20 part-time home helps were working under the supervision of the Home Help Organiser.

As an adjunct to activities of the home helps, the service provided by the night sitters-in has been especially valuable in the more serious cases of chronic sickness awaiting admission to hospital. It is difficult to obtain personnel for these posts, and there were only three on the staff at the end of the year, so that the service is limited. By devoting a few nights a week to a case, night sitters-in were able to do much to relieve the strain on relatives.

In April a short refresher course was held for the home helps, lasting five half days. The syllabus included demonstrations of electrical domestic appliances by the Midlands Electricity Board; lectures on handicapped persons, home nursing, and the care of tuberculous persons; a film show; and a visit to an Old People's Home.

12. MENTAL HEALTH

(i) Administration

- (a) A sub-committee of the Health Committee, named the Mental Health Sub-Committee, is responsible for this service which is controlled by the Medical Officer of Health.

- (b) The following staff are employed:—

One Medical Officer (Dr. R. Lindop) in addition to the Medical Officer of Health, with experience in Mental Deficiency.

Mental Health Visitor:

Miss M. Oliver to 31.7.1953	National Association of Mental Health — Super- visors' Diploma. L.R.A.M.
--------------------------------	---

Miss I. Siddall from 28.9.1953	Home Teacher's Certificate of the College of Teachers for the Blind, Liverpool.
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Occupation Centre Supervisor:

Mrs. M. Coe	National Association of Mental Health Diploma (1941). National Association of Mental Health Course Cer- tificates (1933 and 1937).
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Assistant Occupation Centre Supervisor:

Miss M. Cremin
from 8.6.1953

Psychiatric Social Worker:

W. S. Terry	Certificate in Mental Health London School of Econ- omics, London University.
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Duly Authorised Officer (W. D. Foden) and Deputy Duly Authorised Officer (A. Shaw)	Joint appointments with neighbouring County Borough of Smethwick.
---	---

- (c) Co-ordination with Hospital and Management Committees is obtained by the fact that the Mental Health Sub-Committee is represented on St. Margaret's Hospital Management Committee, to which hospital many of the mental defectives in this area are admitted, and it is still hoped to secure membership of the Management Committee of one of the mental hospitals to which patients are admitted under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. In addition, the local health authority's officers supervise patients on trial or on licence from mental hospitals and institutions for mental patients and furnish home condition and progress reports as required.
- (d) No duties have been delegated to Voluntary Associations.
- (e) No arrangements have been made for the training of mental health visitors.

(ii) Account of work undertaken in the community

(a) Mentally ill cases

(Report by Mr. W. S. Terry)

During the year 66 new cases received after-care which, with cases continued from 1952, made a total of 105. In addition, about 20 other cases were investigated and help given where possible.

The number of visits and interviews was 591, about the same as last year. There has been a tendency, however, for more time to be given in specific cases. Letters and reports this year amounted to 362 and telephone calls 156. This last was almost double the number made last year. The case load has stabilized around 50 at any one time, and there has been nothing significant in the distribution of cases as between men and women, or between different age groups.

A little less than half the cases have needed only general supervision; among the remainder, the main types of problems encountered have been:—

Treatment — necessitating contacts with				
doctor or hospital	...	...	...	21 cases
Domestic problems	...	...	...	17 „
Employment	...	...	...	17 „
Housing	...	...	...	10 „
Financial assistance (generally through				
National Assistance Board)	...	...	...	7 „

It will be understood that in some cases more than one factor was involved.

Contact has been made with many statutory and voluntary agencies, including: National Assistance Board, Ministry of Labour, Probation Officers, Housing Department, Education Department, Deaf and Dumb Mission, Child Guidance Service, Police, N.S.P.C.C., Polish Aid Society, S.S.A.F.A., The Mayor's Fund, The West Bromwich Charity, Birmingham Psychiatric Social Service, National Council of Social Service, local hospitals and doctors. There has also been very useful co-operation from other services within the health department.

Of the 50 cases closed during the year the results have been as follows:—

Adjusted (no obvious symptoms and able to resume normal life)	...	...	22 cases
Stabilized (at the level of their possibilities)	11	„	
Returned to hospital for further treatment	8	„	
Transferred to another service	...	...	1 case
Refused further service	...	...	1 „
Removed from area	...	...	6 cases
Died	...	...	1 case

The one serious fault in the service at the present time is the lack of satisfactory information concerning cases discharged from hospital. It would be unreasonable to expect lengthy reports, but a brief report given as a routine matter with each case discharged would be of immense value to the Psychiatric Social Worker. Put to the patients as a service which could be of value to them it is unlikely that more than a very occasional one would refuse the necessary permission for a report to be sent.

The following typical cases indicate the type of work done:—

Case No. 1

A middle-aged man whose mental condition is aggravated by chronic physical ill-health. In the early days of his illness it was possible to help him with employment. Now, he has done no work for two years. There are domestic difficulties due to the housing situation. The Psychiatric Social Worker keeps in touch and helps with problems as they arise. Should anything serious arise the family would turn to the Social Worker because he has been accepted by them.

Case No. 8

A young married woman separated from her husband. She discharged herself from hospital and made her home with her parents. Her behaviour brought them in desperation to the Health Department. The Social Worker visited and made arrangements through her own doctor for her re-admission to hospital.

Case No. 59

A young married man with two children has been under the care of the Social Worker for nearly three years. Both he and his wife are inadequate for the demands of life. He works well for a time and then develops another anxiety illness which may keep him from work for months. There are periods of domestic strain. As far as one can see this man will always need help, but they have been able to weather each storm as it has arisen by the support of a very patient doctor and such help as the Social Worker can give.

Case No. 148

A young man who had not worked for several years. After treatment in hospital, worker was able to arrange through the Ministry of Labour for his admission to the Rehabilitation Unit. He was subsequently found work as a gardener. This man's mental condition was so serious as to make success very doubtful, but he has worked consistently for six months, and his whole outlook has changed.

Case No. 167

A young married woman with one child. On discharge from hospital made no progress and soon began to deteriorate. Worker found her in such a distressed condition that he at once consulted her own doctor. She was seen by a psychiatrist and returned to hospital. She is at home again now and appears to be well on the way to recovery.

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS

The following tables give details of cases dealt with during the year 1953 and discharges and deaths of patients in mental hospitals.

A few of the cases investigated were not admitted to mental hospitals, while others admitted under Orders of short duration

remained in hospital for further treatment as certified, voluntary or temporary patients, and therefore appear more than once in the table. Because of this, the number of cases dealt with is greater than the number of individual patients admitted. The latter figure has, therefore, been given for comparison with the number of patients who were discharged or who died during the year.

The Duly Authorised Officer also arranged the admission to mental hospitals of four patients who were ordinarily resident outside the Borough and who, for this reason, have been omitted from the table.

Table I. Cases dealt with

Classification		Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 & over	Total
Certified	M	—	2	5	2	2	—	4	37
	F	—	1	4	2	4	3	8	
Voluntary	M	2	7	7	8	4	2	—	61
	F	—	7	8	2	3	8	3	
Temporary	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3 day Order	M	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
	F	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
7 day Urgency Order	M	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	8
	F	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	
14 day Order	M	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	6
	F	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Criminal Justice Act	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cases investigated but not admitted	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
	F	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Total cases dealt with		3	22	28	16	17	14	21	121
Total number of persons admitted									103

Table II. Discharges and Deaths

Length of stay	Under 20			20—29			30—39			40—49			50—59			60—69			70 and over		
	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's	Cert.	Vol.	Oth's
Under 3 months	M	—	—	1	4	1	—	6	1	1	7	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	3	—	1	8	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	2	6	—	2	—	—
3—6 months	M	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
6—9 months	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—12 months	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
12 months and over	M	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals		2		15		19 (1 died)		14 (1 died)		14 (1 died)		14 (1 died)		10 (2 died)		8 (5 died)					
Total discharges and deaths																				82	

(b) Mental Defectives

The supervision of patients on licence from mental deficiency institutions has been mentioned above. Other activities on behalf of mentally defective patients are described in the succeeding paragraph.

(c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938

(i) Ascertainment and Disposal

Seventeen new cases were referred from various sources during the year :—

		Male		Female	
		Over 16	Under 16	Over 16	Under 16
Referred by Local					
Education Authority	...	4	2	2	2
Referred by Doctors	...	—	1	—	1
Referred by					
Children's Almoner	...	—	1	—	—
Referred by					
Children's Officer	...	—	—	1	—
Referred by					
Assistance Board	...	1	—	—	—
Referred by parents	...	—	—	2	—
		—	—	—	—
Totals	...	5	4	5	3
		—	—	—	—

		Male		Female	
		Over 16	Under 16	Over 16	Under 16
Certified under Mental					
Deficiency Acts and					
admitted to :—					
Lea Colony	... ..	—	—	—	1
Monyhull Hall Colony	...	—	1	—	—
Placed under					
statutory supervision	...	5	4	5	3
Placed under					
guardianship of parents		1	—	—	—
Placed under					
voluntary supervision	...	—	—	1	—
		—	—	—	—
Totals	...	6	5	6	4
		—	—	—	—

**Total number of cases on Authority's register
as at 1.1.54**

Statutory supervision	...	66	30	58	38
Guardianship	...	1	—	—	—
Institution cases	...	71	7	96	11
Voluntary cases	...	23	—	11	—
Cases under friendly supervision	...	9	—	3	—
Totals	...	170	37	168	49

(ii) Guardianship and Licence Cases

Only one case is under guardianship. 15 patients from institutions are, however, on licence in this borough and other areas. Twelve cases were discharged from Order during the year.

Licence cases

Fifteen West Bromwich patients were under the care of this and other County Boroughs on 31st December, 1953 :—

Male patients on licence			Female patients on licence		
Living in—			Living in—		
West Bromwich	...	1	Stourbridge	...	1
Cheshire	...	1	Smethwick	...	1
Sussex	...	1	Oxford	...	1
Working—			Worcester	...	1
in factory	...	1	Lichfield	...	1
on farms	...	2	Walsall	...	1
			Birmingham	...	1
			West Bromwich	...	5
			Working—		
			in a factory	...	1
			as domestics	...	11

(iii) Arrangements for carrying out the statutory duty to provide occupation and training for defectives in the area (occupation centres, industrial centres for adults, home teaching — of individuals or groups)

At the end of the year 24 cases were receiving tuition at a temporary occupation centre and in their own homes :—

	Male	Female
Friar Park Occupation Centre Class	3	7
Trinity Road Occupation Centre Class	3	8
Home Teaching 	—	3

Occupation and training

The temporary arrangements for occupation centre classes described in last year's report continued during 1953. Two classes were held at different ends of the Borough for morning or afternoon sessions: one at the Friar Park Community Centre and the other at Trinity Road Social Centre, generally 10 children attending at each. In addition, 3 cases received tuition at home.

The adaptations at "The Crest" were completed during the year, and the two classes met for the first time in their permanent home at a Christmas Party. These commodious premises, which have been thoroughly adapted, will, when fully staffed, accommodate 40 pupils. In addition, there is office accommodation for the Mental Health Officer and Psychiatric Social Worker.

The all-day classes began in January, 1954, on a 5 day a week basis, following the normal school terms, with places for 30 pupils.

14. WELFARE SERVICES

The Medical Officer of Health is designated Chief Welfare Officer and the activities for which the Welfare Services Committee are responsible are integrated with those carried out by the Health Department.

(a) Residential Accommodation

The following accommodation is available for elderly persons in accordance with the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948:—

In West Bromwich

The Hawthorns, for 10 elderly ladies.

Beech Holme, for 20 elderly men.

Lyndon House, for 17 elderly persons (males and females).

In the autumn of 1953 the Council purchased the house adjacent to The Hawthorns, and a scheme for the extension of this Home for Elderly Ladies to make 10 more places, was approved by the Ministry of Health in October. At the

time of writing the adaptations have been completed and the extension will be ready for occupation at the end of July, 1954. This brings the total number of places for old people in the Council's Homes to 57.

Outside the Borough

The Poplars, Wolverhampton. Some 25 elderly men and women are accommodated here by agreement with Wolverhampton Corporation at the cost of West Bromwich Corporation.

Blind Persons: are maintained in Blind Welfare Homes. In 1953, 4 cases were accommodated in such homes.

(b) Handicapped Persons:

(i) Blind or Partially Sighted

These cases are dealt with by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, who act as the Council's Agents. At the end of 1953 there were 100 cases on the register. This body carries out the registration of blind persons; arranges for visitation and home teaching; conducts workshop employment at the Harborne Workshops, now managed by the Birmingham City Council, as well as home employment; accommodates workers where necessary in hostels; and supervises the general social welfare of the blind.

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Blind Persons

		Cause of disability				
		Cataract	Glaucoma	R/F	Others	
(a)	Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Form B.D.8 recommends :					
	(i) No Treatment	...	5	1	—	3
	(ii) Treatment :					
	Medical	...	...	—	—	2
	Surgical	...	...	2	—	—
	Optical	...	...	3	1	—
(b)	Number of cases at (a) (i) above which in follow-up received treatment	...	3	1	—	—

(In addition, 1 died; 1 removed from area; 1 recovered)

B. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(a) Total number of cases notified during the
year 1

(b) Number of cases in which

(i) Vision lost None

(ii) Vision impaired None

(iii) Treatment continued at end of year None

(ii) Deaf and dumb persons (including hard of hearing)

The Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb in Walsall, Wednesbury and mid-Staffordshire, are employed as the Council's agents for this group of the handicapped and at the end of 1953 they had 36 deaf persons from West Bromwich on their books. The Mission arranges for visitation, assistance and advice, and encourages these handicapped persons to participate in the activities of social centres, which include weekly social evenings for the deaf at the Trinity Road Social Centre, and fortnightly meetings for the hard of hearing. Religious services and cinema shows are also held.

(iii) Handicapped persons other than the blind, partially-sighted and deaf or dumb

Physically handicapped:

A register of persons in this group is being compiled and so far includes 34 who are registered as physically handicapped.

Negotiations were begun in the autumn for participation in the scheme for the welfare of handicapped persons arranged by the newly instituted South Staffordshire Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped.

Epileptics:

The register of handicapped persons includes 5 cases suffering from epilepsy—2 females and 3 males. At the end of 1953 one further case was being cared for at the Maghull Home, Liverpool.

Persons suffering from Cerebral Palsy (Spastics)

At the end of 1953 there were 13 persons in West Bromwich known to be suffering from this condition and whose ages ranged from 18 months to 30 years. Four of these cases were at home, one of them having a home teacher; two were attending an Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives; three attended an ordinary school; three were at a special school for physically handicapped children, and one was admitted to a mental hospital (for mental defectives) during the course of the year. Details as to the severity of the condition as it affected each age group are shown on the table below :

Age Group	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
1— 4	—	—	1	1
5— 9	1	2	2	5
10—14	1	4	—	5
15—20	—	1	—	1
21—35	—	—	1	1
Totals	2	7	4	13
	—	—	—	—

(c) Other activities under the National Assistance Act, 1948

(i) Removal of Persons in Need of Care (Section 47)

Two elderly men, each living alone in neglected circumstances and unable to devote to themselves the necessary attention, were removed under this Section of the Act in 1953.

(ii) Burials (Section 50)

There were 9 deaths of persons in Part III Accommodation—6 males and 3 females.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1953.

The Report again indicates the comprehensive nature of the work carried out by the Department, and it will be seen that a considerable amount of time has been devoted to the inspection of food and food premises, and also to the improvement of standards of hygiene. Talks have been given to food handlers and improvements effected.

I would particularly draw attention to the great increase in the slaughtering of pigs in the Borough. The inspection of these carcasses has placed a great strain upon the existing staff, and it will be necessary to review the staffing of the department in the very near future, particularly if and when the rationing of meat ceases. Up to the present it has been the aim to inspect one hundred per cent of the pigs killed, and this has been carried out throughout the year.

Much time has also been spent by the Inspectorial staff on investigating industrial nuisances, and it has been found that a considerable amount of time is taken up inspecting the premises from which these nuisances arise—in fact it is easy to spend a whole afternoon investigating one such nuisance.

With regard to cleansing, it will be noticed that the removal of the Refuse Disposal Tip from Heath Lane to Sinkhole is now being felt in the costs of the Department owing to the longer distance of travel and the time spent in carrying refuse more than double the original distance.

Although the provision of bins as a Rate Charge has been carried out during the year, there is still considerable leeway to be made up with regard to replacing bad bins.

The establishment of the Department has remained the same as in previous years, and is identical with the staff existing prior to the war. My thanks are due to the whole of the staff for their loyal and continuous co-operation in dealing with the responsibilities of the Department.

To the Chairman and members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee my sincere thanks are due for their courtesy and support during the year, and to the Town Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health and other chief officers, I am indebted for their help and advice.

W. W. FOAKES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,
and
Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 17,021.

Special Housing Inspections	402
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, etc. ...	1,080
Miscellaneous Inspections	6,918
Re-inspections	3,754
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	31
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	14
Factories	124
Shops and Food Premises	2,340
Bakehouses	59
Dairies	12
Food and Drugs Act Visits	602
Smoke Observations and visits in con- nection with Atmospheric Pollution	444
Slaughterhouses (including Cottagers' Pigs)	1,058
Fumigation	151
Barbers' and Hairdressers' premises ...	32
	<hr/>
	17,021
	<hr/>

Complaints Received

A total of 560 complaints was received and recorded during the year at the Sanitary Department, all of which were investigated. The number of complaints recorded does not include those made to the Inspectors on the District.

Notices Served

The number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year was 704. Of this number 514 were Informal Notices and 190 were Statutory Notices. The total number of houses concerned was 1,026. In addition 56 Notices involving 77 houses were served under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949.

Improvements effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts, a total of 444 houses was repaired during the year. In addition defects were remedied in a further 235 houses after the service of formal notices under the Public Health Act. Of this latter number 111 houses were repaired by the owners, and 124 by the Local Authority in default of owners.

Work has continued during the year in connection with the demolition of Unfit Houses, and a total of 82 houses was demolished. 79 Demolition Orders were made during the year.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

Interiors of Houses

Houses redecorated or cleansed	1
Repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork carried out	130
Ventilation provided or improved, windows repaired	79

Exteriors of Houses

Damp external walls—brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material or damp- proof courses inserted	55
Defective roofs made watertight	106
Spouting renewed, repaired or cleansed	81
Chimneys repaired or repointed	47

Yards, Outbuildings and Washing Accommodation

Outbuildings repaired	70
Earthenware sinks provided or existing sinks repaired	2
Dangerous wells or cisterns abolished or suitable covers provided	4
Surface paving provided, renewed or repaired ...	5

Water Supply

Insufficient water supply—remedied	1
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Drainage

Defective drainage relaid or repaired	2
Choked drainage opened and cleansed	121

Sanitary Conveniences

Additional water closets provided	25
Water closets repaired	42
Defective connections repaired or pedestals renewed	40
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or insufficient water supply remedied	4
Ashpits converted	1

Factories and Workshops

Additional water closet accommodation provided or existing accommodation improved	13
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Food Premises

Cleansed, repaired or improved	22
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Miscellaneous	1
		<hr/> 852 <hr/>

Court Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936

From the following Table it will be seen that Summonses were issued in eight instances, six of which referred to offences in connection with caravans. In one case relating to a dilapidated house, the owners failed to obey a Court Order and were fined a total of £14.

Situation of Premises	Nature of Complaint	Section or Bye-law under which proceedings were instituted	Result
Union Street	Failure to carry out conditions attached to licence for caravan site	Section 269	Work completed to satisfaction of Corporation. Fined £3.
Park Lane	Nuisance arising from use of moveable dwelling for human habitation	ditto	Van removed. Absolute discharge. Costs 25/-
Crankhall Lane	ditto	ditto	ditto
Crankhall Lane	ditto	ditto	Absolute discharge. No costs.
Crankhall Lane	ditto	ditto	Van removed. Fined £2.
Great Bridge Street	ditto	ditto	Van removed. Conditional discharge. Costs 4/-
32, Stoney Lane	Dilapidated house	Section 94	Work completed. Absolute discharge. Costs 25/-.
22, Parliament Street	ditto	ditto	Failure to comply with Order of Court. Fined £10, Costs £4/15/0. Fined £4, Costs £1/1/0.

Houses-let-in-Lodgings

The number of houses-let-in-lodgings is now five. These have been regularly inspected.

Theatres and Cinemas

There are eight cinemas and one theatre in the Borough, all of which have been regularly inspected. At three cinemas improvements have been effected to the sanitary accommodation, and at one cinema the Plenum system of ventilation was installed.

Factories Act, 1937

124 inspections were made of factories under the Factories Act, 1937, and 18 notices were served. The following Table gives details of the action taken in these cases.

	Found	Remedied
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ...	1	1
Defective sanitary accommodation ...	14	10
Not separate for sexes ...	3	2

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Work in connection with the baiting of sewers was carried out and a total of 187 manholes was tested. Of this number 28 manholes registered complete or partial takes. A 'vertical block test' was later made of the 28 affected manholes using a different poison bait and no takes were recorded during this test.

During the year a total of 237 complaints of infestations of rats and mice was received. In the case of 35 business premises and 213 private dwellings, baits were laid and the premises treated.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are seven premises in the Borough licensed under the Pet Animals Act, 1951—this being one less than the previous year. All the premises have been regularly inspected, and the standard laid down when the Act first came into operation, has been well-maintained. There is liaison with the West Bromwich & Smethwick Fire Brigade in view of the possibility of fire and the consequent danger to animals on the premises.

Hairdressers and Barbers

During the year 3 applications were received for registration under the West Bromwich Corporation Act in connection with the carrying on of the trade or business of hairdresser or barber. All these premises were inspected before registration and a copy of the Byelaws handed to each applicant.

Improvements to premises which had been commenced during the previous year to bring the shops up to the required standard, were completed in four instances, and in no case has it been necessary to take action under the Byelaws.

A total of 32 inspections was made of premises where the trade of hairdresser or barber was carried on. The number of these premises on the register at the end of the year was 73.

Disinfection

A total of 39 premises was disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease. The disinfection of bedding from cases of infectious disease continued to be carried out at Black Lake Works and bedding from 28 cases was dealt with during the year.

Disinfestation

The disinfestation of furniture by HCN has been carried out in 28 instances. It appears that owing to the small number of cases being received from the Housing Department, consideration should be given as to whether this service can continue in view of the excessive costs.

In addition to the disinfestation of furniture, 44 houses were disinfested by means of insecticide sprays or smoke generators containing D.D.T.

During the year 50 houses on Corporation Estates were treated for infestations of cockroaches by means of D.D.T. Smoke Generators. In all instances the under-floor cavity was treated. Of this number five infestations were heavy in character, and in 26 instances the infestations were only slight. No evidence of cockroach infestation was discovered in the remaining 19 houses.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

As in past years, smoke abatement has occupied a considerable amount of time of the Inspectorial staff, and 196 observations of smoke from factory chimneys were made.

Investigations of complaints relating to industrial nuisances (grit, effluvia, etc.) were also carried out.

As in former years there has been close liaison with the Alkali Works Inspector, and complaints received concerning two industrial premises in the Borough have been forwarded to him.

The following Table gives some indication of the work which has been carried out in connection with industrial nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisance.</i>	<i>Result</i>
Steelworks ...	Fumes nuisance from paint-spraying shop.	Cyclone ducts improved and extended. Water spray curtain overhauled.
Engineering Works	Smoke nuisance from open combustion stoves	Coke now burned instead of coal.
Brickworks ...	Smoke nuisance from short chimneys to blue brick kilns.	Old flues taken out and new and extended flues constructed to tall stack.
Copper Works ...	Smoke nuisance from burning of insulated wire cable.	Chamber in furnace constructed to consume smoke.
Copper Works ...	Emission of fumes.	Fume ducts from rotary furnaces improved. Canopies, fume ducts and cyclones installed to electric furnaces.
Chemical Works ...	Escape of obnoxious gases.	Erection of new building and installation of new plant.
Scrap Works ...	Smoke nuisance from burning of rubber insulation from copper wire in open fire.	Process discontinued.
Steel Constructional Engineers ...	Smoke nuisance.	Oil furnace overhauled.
Metal Works ...	Nuisance of fumes from drying ovens.	Furnace ducts and fans installed.
Spring Works ...	Fumes from tempering vats.	Ducts installed and height of chimney extended so as to discharge fumes at higher elevation.
Bacon-curers ...	Smoke emission.	Improved fire-doors installed.
Laundry ...	Smoke emission.	Ministry of fuel contacted—improved fuel supply.
Foundry ...	Smoke emission through ventilation exits.	Cowls and separate extractor flues installed.
Engineering Works	Grit emission.	New boiler installed and forced draught reduced.
Bacon Factory ...	Smoke emission.	New boiler with automatic stoker and new stack installed.
Industrial Hostel ...	Smoke emission.	Height of chimney increased to discharge products of combustion above roofs of adjoining houses.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisance.</i>	<i>Result</i>
Pit Mound (recovery of red ash) ...	Dust from operation of screens and mechanical diggers.	Screens enclosed and digging operations regulated according to wind direction.
Aluminium Foundry	Fumes from core-drying ovens.	Height of flues increased.
Aluminium and Iron Foundry ...	Grit emission from cupolas.	New cupolas with spark arresters installed.
Iron Foundry ...	Grit emission from cupolas.	Experimental spark arresters fitted.
Iron Foundry ...	Grit emission.	Filter bag fitted to fan exhaust.
Warehouse Incinerator ...	Smoke and burnt paper.	Baffles provided.
Brass Foundry ...	Emission of oxide, etc.	Advised re furnace operation.
Iron Foundry ...	Grit emission.	Door to exhaust chamber refixed and properly sealed.
Wire Works ...	Smoke emission.	New boiler fixed and height of stack increased.

West Bromwich Corporation Act 1949 — Section 77

Prior Approval of Industrial Furnaces

Plans were submitted in four instances for prior approval of industrial furnaces. Plans were examined and the premises inspected, and applications were approved in each case.

Atmospheric Pollution Gauges

The recording of atmospheric pollution in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was continued during the year.

The use of four deposit gauges for the collection of deposited matter and eight Lead Peroxide Gauges for determining the amount of S.O.₃ in the atmosphere, was continued.

Owing to the dangerous conditions existing at the site, the Deposit Gauge at the Public Baths was transferred to Highfields.

Deposit Gauges

The following Table gives the monthly recordings of the deposit gauges, showing the deposited matter in tons per square mile :—

Month			Highfields	Geo. Salter	M.E.B.	Isolation Hospital
January	...	...	18.09	16.57	23.11	11.84
February	...	...	12.9	13.65	14.03	9.45
March	...	...	19.3	17.05	24.74	17.25
April	...	...	21.49	10.96	17.42	13.38
May	...	...	11.87	11.83	12.29	12.07
June	...	...	13.63	15.37	16.71	12.91
July	...	...	19.09	18.8	25.36	19.24
August	...	...	14.86	12.2	16.78	18.47
September	...	...	18.71	20.28	17.91	17.16
October	...	...	12.52	17.47	18.21	14.15
November	...	...	14.67	15.61	19.55	15.4
December	...	...	15.75	15.41	19.91	11.8
			192.88	185.20	226.02	173.12
MONTHLY AVERAGES						
1949	...	...	—	20.09	24.8	16.37
1950	...	...	—	20.23	23.83	15.36
1951	...	...	—	20.84	22.69	16.15
1952	...	...	—	22.12	15.91	13.82
1953	...	...	16.07	15.43	18.83	14.42

The above gauges have been in operation for five years, and the average readings for the whole of the Borough during that period are as follows, expressed in tons per square mile :—

1949	...	20.56	1951	...	20.01
1950	...	19.8	1952	...	18.52
		1953	...		16.19

These figures indicate that there has been a reduction in the atmospheric pollution in the Borough.

The deposit gauge placed at the M.E.B. showed a great reduction in 1952, due to spark arresters erected at a nearby factory. Since then, however, the new gas works at Swan Village has come into operation, and there has been a marked increase in the deposit at this station.

Lead Peroxide Gauges

The weight of Sulphur Trioxide (SO₃) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is given in the following table :—

Month			Kenrick Park	Highfields	G. Salter School	M.E.B.	Harvills Hawthorn	Isolation Hospital	Rayhall	Red House Park
January	...	...	3.69	2.67	2.73	2.33	1.56	3.84	2.39	2.17
February	...	...	3.49	2.68	2.28	2.76	1.94	2.86	2.13	1.88
March	...	...	2.99	1.37	2.33	2.67	1.66	2.74	1.95	2.11
April	...	...	2.37	—	1.62	1.9	1.22	1.85	1.3	1.23
May	...	...	1.19	—	.87	1.17	—	1.15	.71	.56
June	...	...	.83	.82	.26	1.69	—	.75	.71	.47
July	...	...	2.21	.66	.75	.02	—	.88	.66	.38
August	...	...	2.41	.82	.97	2.58	—	1.51	.65	.36
September	...	...	1.34	.9	1.29	2.03	—	1.49	.94	.59
October	...	...	1.84	1.59	1.38	1.86	—	1.67	1.49	1.18
November	...	...	4.59	1.94	1.82	2.82	—	2.74	1.14	.93
December	...	...	2.72	2.28	2.53	3.13	—	2.49	2.12	1.91
MONTHLY AVERAGES										
1949	...	...	2.51	—	1.82	2.1	2.41	1.87	1.49	1.2
1950	...	...	2.39	—	1.86	2.12	2.16	2.09	1.52	1.22
1951	...	...	2.46	—	1.8	1.83	1.66	1.93	1.45	1.14
1952	...	...	2.23	—	1.64	1.87	1.47	1.84	1.34	1.11
1953	...	...	2.47	1.57	1.57	2.08	1.59	1.99	1.35	1.14

The average for the year for the whole of the town expressed in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day was :—

1949	...	1.84	1951	...	1.73
1950	...	1.86	1952	...	1.63
1953	...	1.72			

The largest amount of SO₃ was again at Kenrick Park, but there has been an increase at the M.E.B. Station.

The erection of new houses and the extension of Corporation Estates will naturally cause an increase in the amount of sulphur in the atmosphere while solid fuel burning continues. The issue of ‘ nutty slack ’ and the large number of all-night burning grates now installed will also have an effect upon the amount of sulphur emitted into the atmosphere.

The gauge situated in the neighbourhood of a works manufacturing dilute sulphuric acid, showed that there had been a great improvement in the emission of SO_2 from this plant. Nevertheless on one occasion when a breakdown occurred at the works, high recordings were obtained.

Emission of Zinc Oxide

The measurement of Zinc Oxide from a factory was continued throughout the year by means of a modified form of deposit gauge.

The recordings given showed that the emission was not excessive and in fact, with the exception of one station, there was a considerable reduction.

These gauges are changed at fortnightly intervals, and the highest recording during the year was 27.91 lbs. per acre.

Chemical Works

Owing to continual complaints of fumes from a chemical works, in October an atmospheric pollution gauge was placed in adjoining gardens.

The results recorded were communicated to both H.M. Alkali Works Inspector and the Manager of the firm.

Since the installation of this gauge, improvements have been effected to the existing apparatus and further improvements are in hand.

During the three months, the average amount of fluorine deposited was 17.22 parts per million and the pH varied from 4.64 to 4.98. The highest amount of fluorine recorded was 41 parts per million in November.

Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffs. Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological examination was made of 22 samples of water, taken from the sources below, all of which were satisfactory :—

From wells and springs	...	...	...	1
From South Staffs. Waterworks Co.	...	...	...	11
From City of Birmingham Supply	...	...	...	10

Eleven samples of water were taken from the Public Baths, and only in one instance was B.Coli present. In all cases the Baths Superintendent was notified of the the results of the examination.

Twenty-seven samples of water were taken for chemical examination and all samples were satisfactory. Samples obtained from the City of Birmingham Supply were examined for plumbo-solvency and lead dissolved after 48 hours and all gave negative results.

Details of the analysis of the last sample taken are as follows (results expressed in parts per 1,000,000).

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.048
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	10.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	absent
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	...	...	...	1.692
Total Solids dried at 100 deg. C.	...	...	...	120
Nitrite	...	...	...	absent
pH	...	...	...	6.4
Appearance	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles
Plumbo-solvency	...	...	...	Nil.

The number of dwellinghouses and population supplied with water from the mains is as under :—

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses	21,649	79,789	90.72
(b) Houses sharing either stand-pipes or common taps	2,218	8,171	9.28

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

Meat Inspection

The three slaughterhouses in the Borough were engaged full time during the year and a total of 31,301 pigs were slaughtered. All the carcasses were inspected before removal and a total of 845 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses for this purpose. As in past years a considerable number of inspections had to be made outside office hours owing to the irregular delivery of pigs. It may be pointed out that there has been an increase of 25% in the number of pigs slaughtered.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

The following Table gives particulars of the incidence of disease in carcasses slaughtered.

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	—	31,301
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	31,301
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	54
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	767
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	2.62
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	515
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	1.69

Cottagers' Pigs

During the year 213 notifications were received of the intended slaughter of Cottagers' Pigs. The number of pigs concerned was 245 and in each case the carcass was inspected.

Hawkers' Vehicles

Five vehicles were registered under the West Bromwich Corpora-
tion Act, 1949, for the sale of food and each vehicle was inspected and
approved.

Inspection of Shops and Food Premises, etc.

A total of 2,340 inspections was made during the year.

Food hygiene talks were given to employees at eight factories engaged in the preparation of food, and also to employees in four large canteens.

In view of the outbreak of food poisoning in Northern England, due to the consumption of meat pies, investigation was made into the methods of manufacture and storage at three large factories where this product is manufactured.

Improvements were effected with regard to the display of foods in six shop premises, and entirely new fittings and counters were installed at two confectioners premises.

The year saw the completion and productive occupation of a new bakehouse in the Birmingham Road. This bakehouse combines a high standard of construction with the most modern bread and confectionery manufacture. A pleasing feature is the equipment and specially ventilated room set apart for the storage of artificial cream. The ovens to this bakehouse are fired with smokeless fuel.

At another of the larger bakehouses extensions were completed and advantage was taken to re-lay floors and provide new sanitary accommodation and drainage. Further extensions were still in progress at this bakehouse at the end of the year.

Re-painting was carried out at two of the large manufacturers of meat products and allied bakeries.

Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938

Sausage manufacturers	...	...	...	6
Cooked Meat, Pie, etc., manufacturers	...			9
Ice Cream manufacturers	...	...	...	5
Pickle manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Fish friers	...	...	...	92
Ice Cream retailers	...	...	...	208

Food Premises in the area

Slaughterhouses (bacon factories)	...	...	3
Butchers' shops	...	...	71
Grocers' shops	...	...	113
Greengrocers' shops	...	...	62
Confectioners (including sweet confectionery)			79
Fishmongers	...	...	12
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	...	...	51
Licensed houses	...	...	196
Outdoor beer licenses	...	...	30
Sweet confectionery manufacturers	...		2
Bakehouses	...	...	17
Ice-lolly manufacturers	...	...	1
Aerated water manufacturers	...	...	6
Brewers and Bottlers of Beer	...	...	3
Wholesale grocers and provision warehouses			6
General Dealers	...	...	184
Synthetic Cream Manufacturers	...	...	1

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All meat condemned by the Food Inspectors is collected at a central point; stained in accordance with the Ministry's instructions; and then disposed of to a private concern of high repute manufacturing fertiliser, etc.

The income derived from the sale of this salvage is divided proportionately amongst the butchers concerned.

With regard to other foods, (tinned goods, etc.) these are burned or destroyed at the Depot at Black Lake.

CLASSIFICATION AND WEIGHTS OF FOOD CONDEMNED

The Inspection of food other than meat, occupies a considerable part of the Inspectors' time, as the following table giving the classification of food condemned will show:—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	7	15	3	16				
Bacon	...	...	...		4	0	25				
Sausage	...	...	...		1	1	27				
Beef	...	...	...			2	4				
Fish (Wet)	...	...	...		2	3	6				
Shellfish	...	...	...		2	2	20				
								8	7	3	6
Dried Fruit	...	...	...		1	3	4				
Egg (Dried)	...	...	...		5	0	0				
Egg (Liquid)	...	...	...		11	3	7				
Cereals	...	...	...		1	0	10				
Cheese	...	...	...		1	0	0				
Miscellaneous Foods	...	...	...		2	0	15				
								1	2	3	8
CANNED & BOTTLED GOODS :											
Vegetables :											
Tomatoes	...	...	...		7	3	2				
Peas	...	...	...		2	3	20				
Beans	...	...	...		1	0	2				
								11	2	24	
Fruit :											
Apples	...	...	...		4	1	15				
Cherries	...	...	...		9	2	26				
Grapes	...	...	...		2	0	12				
Peaches	...	...	...		1	3	22				
Pears	...	...	...		2	0	11				
Pineapple	...	...	...		1	2	1				
Plums, etc.	...	...	...	1	13	3	17				
Prunes	...	...	...		3	1	24				
Strawberries	...	...	...		1	1	16				
Miscellaneous Fruits	...	...	...		4	3	19				
								3	6	0	26
Jam, etc.	...	...	...			1	0				
Milk and Cream	...	...	...		4	0	16				
Fish	...	...	...		1	0	12				
Meat	...	...	...		25	3	14				
Ham (95 tins)	...	...	...		8	2	25				
Fruit Pulp	...	...	...			3	13				
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		1	1	11				
								2	3	1	7
Total								15	11	3	15

Legal Proceedings under the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953

During the year a firm was prosecuted under the above Order for selling ice-cream not of the required standard. The Defendant was fined £2 with 15s. 0d. costs.

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the sale and manufacture of ice cream, but of this number only 5 actually manufacture ice cream since the advent of the Heat Treatment Regulations.

During the year 22 applications were received for registration of premises for the sale of ice-cream and the number of such premises now on the register is 208.

Regular inspections were made of all premises selling ice-cream.

59 samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, the results of the analysis of these samples being as under :—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
55	3	—	1

The Grade 4 sample was manufactured inside the Borough and visits were made to the premises and advice given to the Manager. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Ice Lollies

Six samples of ice lollies were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

Following a complaint received in connection with an ice lolly, the factory was visited and improvements effected to the plant. Further samples taken after the improvements were carried out showed no bacterial infection.

Artificial Cream

There is only one premise registered for the manufacture of artificial cream, and the three samples taken for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

At the request of the manufacturer samples were taken during manufacture and submitted for chemical analysis in view of a 'soapy' taste. As a result of the analysis advice was given to the manufacturer.

Milk Supply

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The number of dealers registered under the above Regulations during the year was 13.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950

A total of 205 dealers, of whom 191 are small shopkeepers, are licensed under these regulations. Of the remainder 10 are dairy companies from neighbouring towns holding supplementary licenses in this area.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The examination of milk samples continued to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. During the year a total of 38 samples were submitted for the methylene blue test, all of which were satisfactory.

In addition 3 samples, comprising 2 Pasteurised and 1 Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised), were submitted for phosphatase and turbidity tests and all were satisfactory.

Biological Examination of Milk

A total of 6 samples of milk was taken, all of which were from farms situated in the Borough; one of the samples was 'positive.' In this case the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified and the affected animal isolated and slaughtered.

Chemical Examination

52 samples of milk were taken for chemical analysis during the year and two of these samples contained extraneous water. The average fat content of the genuine samples was 3.54% and the average solids not fat content 8.58%.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year 277 samples of food and drugs comprising 52 formal and 225 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The results of the analysis of these samples are given in the following Table:—

		<i>Samples Analysed</i>		<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
		<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>
1st Quarter	...	10	49	10	47	—	2
2nd Quarter	...	12	59	12	54	—	5
3rd Quarter	...	14	47	12	38	2	9
4th Quarter	...	16	70	16	65	—	5
Total	...	52	225	50	204	2	21

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 8.30 compared with 10.98 in the previous year.

List of Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples of Food and Drugs

<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature or Extent of Adulteration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Pork Sausage Sample No. 1336 Informal	Deficient of 8.5% Total Meat	Manufacturer cautioned
Syrup of Figs Sample No. 1355 Informal	Unsatisfactory Label	Manufacturer cautioned
Butter Sample No. 1445 Informal	Slightly rancid	Supply withdrawn— storage facilities not satisfactory.
Synthetic Cream Sample No. 1411 Informal	Fat—Soapy taste unpalatable	Premises visited and manufacturer advised.
Vita Glucose Tablets Sample No. 1430 Informal	Unsatisfactory Label	Manufacturers warned— old pack — instructions given for withdrawal of old packs and label altered.
Ice Cream Sample No. 1455 Informal	Deficient of 14.5% Milk solids	Manufacturer cautioned.
Soft Drink Sample No. 1463 Informal	Contamination from Plastic Cap	Caps withdrawn — new caps of different material now used.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature or Extent of Adulteration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Milk Sample No. 1483 Formal	Slightly below limit	Subsequent sample genuine.
Milk Sample No. 1484 Formal	Contained 2.9% extraneous water	Subsequent sample genuine.
Sting Lotion Sample No. 1488 Informal	Deficient of 14% Liq. Ammon. Fort.	Old stock—withdrawn—manufacturer cautioned.
Glycerine Sample No. 1497 Informal	Contained 5% water	Old stock—withdrawn—manufacturer cautioned.
Ice Cream Sample No. 1514 Informal	Deficient of approximately 28% Fat	See formal sample No. 1517.
Fish Paste Sample No. 1516 Informal	Deficient of 25% Fish	Withdrawn from sale—manufacturer cautioned.
Ice Cream Sample No. 1517 Formal	Deficient of approximately 16% Fat	Manufacturer fined £2 plus 15/- costs.
Ice Cream Sample No. 1523 Informal	Deficient of approximately 4% Fat	
Vita Cup Sample No. 1496 Informal	Unsatisfactory Label	Ministry of Food stated that label is satisfactory.
Ice Lolly Sample No. 1547 Informal	Contained an excessive amount of lead	Manufacturer cautioned—discontinued manufacture until new moulds installed.
Back & Kidney Pills Sample No. 1553 Informal	Label practically illegible	Manufacturer cautioned—new labels issued—old stock withdrawn.
Yeast-Vite Tablets Sample No. 1556 Informal	Deficient of 23% Phenacetin	Old stock—manufacturer warned.
Yeast-Vite Tablets Sample No. 1599 Formal	Deficient of 34% Acetphenetidin	Old stock—manufacturer warned.
Foot Paste Sample No. 1610 Informal	Contained excess of 37.5% Salicylic Acid	Manufacturer cautioned—admitted error in formula—new formula issued.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Nine samples of Fertilisers and 4 samples of Feeding Stuffs were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst. Four samples of Fertiliser and one of Feeding Stuffs were satisfactory. Appropriate action was taken in the case of each unsatisfactory sample.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

There are 54 names entered on the list of persons entitled to sell poisonous substances included in Part II of the Poisons List.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Two manufacturers of rag flock are licensed by the Corporation and 8 premises are registered under the Act. Nine samples were taken during the year comprising 7 samples of rag flock and two samples of cotton felt, all of which were satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Conveniences

There are 5 attended and 12 unattended conveniences in the Borough. Damage has again been done to both attended and unattended conveniences, and repairs have had to be carried out. It is very difficult to discover the perpetrators of this damage.

Refuse Collection

The position with regard to labour is becoming very difficult. This is a full-employment area and it is impossible to retain young men in this service. There has again been a high sickness rate, and owing to the impossibility of obtaining young recruits, the average age of the men has increased and thereby increased the sickness rate.

The problem of refuse collection in connection with siting and accessibility of dust bins on new housing estates, together with the extra distance of haul to Sinkhole Tip, is now being felt. The average haul to the disposal point is now 3.3 miles, whereas when tipping took place at Heath Lane the average haul was only 1.5 miles.

There has also been a great increase in the length of carry from the dust bin site to the refuse collection vehicle on the new estates, this has been particularly noticeable on the Hateley Heath and Yew Tree Estates. This has naturally affected the costs of the Department.

The quantity of refuse collected continues to increase, and no doubt this is caused by the number of two-family occupancies, particularly on Corporation Estates. The popularity of the all-night burning grate is also a contributory factor, together with the inferior quality of fuel burned. The erection of new houses on the outskirts of the Borough has also added to the difficulties of the Department; during the year there has been an additional 479 new houses from which refuse has to be collected.

Once again I extend my thanks to Mr. A. Witcomb Smith, the Transport Manager, and his staff, for their help and co-operation in maintaining the fleet of vehicles during the past year.

The use of the larger capacity vehicles has had the effect of reducing transport costs.

Refuse Disposal

The Tip at Sinkhole Farm has now been in use for over 12 months. This site is extremely marshy land and many difficulties have been encountered in connection with the tipping of refuse. Tipping has been carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Health's suggested precautions on Controlled Tipping; and by the addition of a second calldozer it has been possible to consolidate the tip more effectively.

As in former years trade refuse and putrescible matter was incinerated at the Refuse Disposal Works, Black Lake. It has again been difficult to recruit labour for the works and on occasions overtime had to be worked to clear up the accumulations of refuse.

Provision of Dustbins

During 1953, 2,341 bins were issued bringing the progressive total of bins issued as a charge on the Rate Fund since the inception of the scheme to 5,627.

Although this large number of bins has been provided, it has not yet been possible to overtake the number of bins which have fallen into

disrepair, owing to the restricted amount of money which was allocated for this purpose. The delivery and transport of bins from the depot to the respective houses has caused a considerable amount of work. Each complaint of a defective bin has to be investigated, and a record is kept of all new bins delivered.

Salvage

As in the previous year it was necessary to restrict activities with regard to collection of waste paper owing to economic causes. However, it has been possible to bale and sell a considerable quantity and the total of 247 tons may be regarded as satisfactory under the circumstances.

The salvage and baling of ferrous scrap, black scrap, non-ferrous scrap and textiles was again carried out, and although there was very little demand for bottles and jars, 2 tons 10 cwts. were sold.

The collection of kitchen waste was carried on during the year, and under the direction of the Ministry this was delivered to a factory at Tipton for processing.

Full details of the salvage recovered appear at the end of this section.

Cesspools

There is now a total of 48 cesspools in the Borough and all these were regularly cleansed.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	...	...	...	...	25,074
Total number of loads of refuse collected	...				12,289
Total tonnage of refuse collected	...	...			32,896
Total tonnage of nightsoil collected	...	...			122
Total tonnage collected from cesspools	...				1,749
Gross cost of collection	...	...	...		£45,092
Gross cost of disposal	...	...	...	...	£7,110
Gross cost per ton of collection	...	...	...	£1 7s	4.97d

Gross cost per ton of disposal	4s	3.87d
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton ...	£1 11s	8.85d
Net cost of collection and disposal per ton ...	£1 9s	0.77d
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1000 population	£543 4s	9.27d
Net cost of collection and disposal from each premises per annum	£1 17s	4.00d

Output of Refuse per annum (excluding cesspool contents)

Output	1950	1951	1952	1953
Per 1,000 of population ...	300.77 tons	285.74 tons	328.35 tons	373.83 tons
Per house ...	21.99 cwts.	20.99 cwts.	23.57 cwts.	26.24 cwts.

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper							
(various grades)	247	5	3	0	1,828	3	8
Baled Ferrous Scrap ...	43	13	1	0	199	12	1
Black Scrap	4	14	0	0	24	13	6
Non-Ferrous Scrap ...		6	1	17	19	12	8
Textiles							
(Rags and Woollens)	7	3	0	0	105	8	9
Bottles and Jars	2	10	0	0	13	9	6
Bones		9	1	0	2	13	2
Kitchen Waste	467	18	0	0	1,754	6	6
	773	19	2	17	£3,947	19	10

The total of salvage collected and income received from 1943 to 1953 was as under :—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
1943	...	...	...	1,733	3	2	0	5,616	3	10
1944	...	...	...	1,587	14	0	0	4,619	12	1
1945	...	...	...	1,307	2	0	0	3,807	2	1
1946	...	...	...	1,430	6	0	0	4,750	16	4
1947	...	...	...	1,415	13	2	0	4,596	15	1
1948	...	...	...	1,383	16	1	0	4,894	0	2
1949	...	...	...	1,139	11	2	0	4,622	15	6
1950	...	...	...	880	9	1	0	3,168	4	6
1951	...	...	...	1,029	1	2	22	8,030	9	3
1952	...	...	...	1,084	1	1	14	6,784	16	6
1953	...	...	...	773	19	2	17	3,947	19	10
				13,764	18	2	25	£54,838	15	2